advanced technology, with particular reference to mustard, groundnut, soyabean and sunflower.

(ii) Supporting oilseeds projects of the National Dairy Development Board.

(iii) The Technology Mission on Oilseeds (TMO) aims at harnessing the best production, processing and management technologies, to accelerate self reliance in oilseeds production.

(iv) Intensification of research efforts for increasing production of oilseeds.

(v) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops like soyabean and sunflower, exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.

(vi) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.

(vii) Assistance for oil palm development.

(viii) Better incentive to producers through fixation of minimum support prices of major oilseeds.

Spoilt Sugar Entered Mumbai Port in Cargo-Vessel

482. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about one thousand tonnes of spoilt sugar entered Mumbai port in a cargo-vessel 'MV-Nafalie' in May—June this year;

(b) whether it was found unfit not only for human consumption as such, but also for distilleries; and

(c) if so, how the same has been disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUBANS PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) A consignment of 1335 tonnes of sugar was brought to Mumbai Port on MV Nafalie on 13.4.1997. The consignment was unloaded from MV Nafalie in stream into barge 'Prosper' under customs permission and supervision on 15.5.1997. The barge has been at berth in Prince's Dock from 12.6.97. As per the certificate issued by Food and Drug Administration, Government of Maharashtra, the sugar is moist, sticky with fermented shell and hence unfit for human consumption. The sugar is still lying loaded on the barge awaiting disposal.

Contractor-Official Nexus Defrauds Government of Crores of Rupees

483. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI O.P. KOHLI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news appearing in 'The Pioneering' dated 4th July, 1997 under the caption "Contractor-official nexus defrauds Government of crores-major racket in rice transportation";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether any departmental action has been taken against the FCI officials responsible for this racket;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to stop such lapses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUBANS PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Food Corporation has filed FIR against M/s Gautam Associates, Mohali and M/s Yazen Ayier & Co., Pehowa who were appointed as Transport Contractors by the Food Corporation of India for transportation of foodgrains from Haryana to Imphal (Manipur) for not delivering 4363 MT and 1543 MT of rice worth Rs. 4.25 crores. The Central Government has also approved the proposal of the Food Corporation of India to refer the case to Central Bureau of Investigation for detailed investigation and FCI has taken

action accordingly. On the basis of the preliminary investigation, the Food Corporation of India has placed under suspension one District Manager and six Assistant Managers.

Capacity of FCI Godowns in Gujarat

484. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAIPATEL:
SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation and present capacity of the FCI godowns in the State of Gujarat; and

(b) the number of offices and godowns proposed to be opened in the State during the current and next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUBANS PRASAD SINGH): (a) The monthly allocation of foodgrains under TPDS for Gujarat State is 67.5 thousand tonnes. As on 31.5.1997, the Food Corporation of India was having storage capacity of 9.82 lakh tonnes.

(b) At present, there is no proposal with the Government to set up new offices. There is adequate storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India.

उत्तर प्रदेश के पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में अनाज की भारी कमी

485. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:**
श्री राजनाथ सिंह:
श्री जयन्त कुमार मल्होत्रा:

क्या **खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि पिछले चार महीनों से उत्तर प्रदेश के पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में अनाज की भारी कमी हो रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री की उत्तर प्रदेश के पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों की यात्रा के दौरान आश्वासन दिया गया था कि इन क्षेत्रों के लिए अनाज की विशेष व्यवस्था की जाएगी ताकि किसी भी प्रकार की कमी न हो; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इन क्षेत्रों को पर्याप्त मात्रा में अनाज उपलब्ध कराने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं और अनाज की सुविधा उपलब्ध कब तक करा दी जाएगी?

खाद्य तथा उपभोक्ता मामलों के राज्य मंत्री (श्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह): (क) और (ख) उत्तर प्रदेश सहित सभी राज्यों को खाद्यान्नों का मासिक आवंटन उस राज्य के लिए समग्र रूप से किया जाता है और आगे विभिन्न क्षेत्रों/जिलों के बीच उप आवंटन राज्य सरकार द्वारा किया जाता है। जून, 1997 से चावल और गेहूं का आवंटन लक्षित सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के फार्मूले पर किया जाता है और पहली जून, 1997 से सम्पुष्ट सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली समाप्त हो गई है। लक्षित सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के अधीन उत्तर प्रदेश को किया गया 15.37 लाख टन प्रति वर्ष का आवंटन 1996-97 में किए गए 12.50 लाख टन उठान से लगभग 3 लाख टन अधिक है।

राज्य सरकार द्वारा किए गए उप आवंटनों के अनुसार उत्तर प्रदेश के पहाड़ी जिलों के लिए खाद्यान्नों की पर्याप्त उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए भारतीय खाद्य निगम सभी प्रयास कर रहा है। मार्च, 1997 से जून, 1997 तक की अवधि के दौरान केवल अल्मोड़ा जिले में खाद्यान्नों के पर्याप्त स्टाक का संचलन नहीं किया जा सका क्योंकि परिवहन ठेका बेस डिपुओं से स्टाक उठाने में असफल रहा था।

(ग) जी, नहीं। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने 21.6.1997 को पंतनगर दौरे के दौरान मात्र इतना कहा था कि राज्य सरकार को पेश आ रही कठिनाइयों पर ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Import of Wheat of Inferior Quality

486. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the wheat imported in 1997, quantity thereof, the amount spent thereon, the country from which it was imported and the time when it reached India;